

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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O 201730Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6448

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5584

E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA JULY 20
I RAISED WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF RADIO LIBERTY.
I RECALLED TO HIM THAT THE SECRETARY HAD SENT
A LETTER TO FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA ON
JUNE 28 ADVISING HIM THAT WE WOULD NOW LIKE TO
OBTAIN A RENEWAL OF LONG TERM LEASE ON RADIO LIBERTY.
AS A RESULT OF THIS LETTER, WHICH HAD YET RECEIVED
NO FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT, CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN
SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND ABSHIRE WHICH HAD BEEN
SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE THE END JUNE HAD BEEN
POSTPONED IN ORDER THAT AREILZA COULD AGAIN DISCUSS
THE QUESTION IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.
THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT HAD OF COURSE POSTPONED
THE WHOLE PROCESS.

2. I TOLD OREJA THAT THIS QUESTION WAS ONE OF
GREAT IMPORTANT TO US AND THAT THE WORK OF RADIO
LIBERTY WHICH HAD EXISTED IN SPAIN FOR THE PAST
FIFTEEN YEARS WAS IN OUT MUTUAL INTERESTS. I ALSO
CALLED TO HIS ATTENTION THE NUMEROUS STATEMENTS
BY MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS UNDERLINING
THE GREAT INTEREST AND SUPPORT WHICH RADIO LIBERTY
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ENJOYS IN CONGRESS. I ADDED THAT FROM A TECHNICAL

POINT OF VIEW THE PRESENT SITE HAD VIRTUALLY NONE
TO EQUAL IT.

3. OREJA (WHO IS FULLY FAMILAR WITH THE RADIO
LIBERTY QUESTION) SAID THAT HE WOULD GIVE THE
MATTER HIS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND WOULD ALSO
COORDINATE SPANISH POSITION WITH THE NEW MINISTER
OF INFORMATION. HE HAD TO TELL ME THAT THAT HE BE
LIEVED IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO AGREE TO A
LONG TERM LEASE. HE INCLINATION WAS THAT IT
MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO LET RADIO
LIBERTY FUNCTION FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME,
BUT WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY RENEWING THE CONTRACT.
HE FORESAW NO POSSIBILITY OF RASING THE MATTER
IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN THE MONTH OF JULY
SINCE THE ONE THIS WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM WHILE THE ONE ON JULY 30 WILL
BE HELD IN LA CORYNA AND WILL BE DEDICATED
TO PROBLEMS OF GALICIA. HOWEVER, HE WOULD STUDY
THE QUESTION AND HOPED WHEN WE MET IN SAN SEBASTIAN)
IN AUGUST (WHERE OREJA WILL BE SPENDING THAT MONTH)
HE WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE ME A CLEAR PICTURE.

4. O TOLD OREJA THAT ABSHIRE WOULD BE PREPARED TO
COME TO MADRID FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WHENEVER
IT WAS CONVENIENT OT THE GOS.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE I SEE NOTHING
TO BE GAINED BY ABSHIRE AND ROBERTS COMING TO
MADRID THIS MONTH. I HAVE NOW LAID THE MATTER
CLEARLY BEFORE OREJA AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO
FOLLOW THE MATTER WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND
WITH THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION. I HAVE ALREADY
REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE NEW MINISTER OF
INFORMATION WHO IS A FRIEND IN ORDER TO GIVE HIM
A BRIEFING ON THIS SUBJECT, WITH WHICH WE IS NOT
FAMILIAR. FOLLOWING MY FURTHER MEETING WITH
OREJA IN SAN SEBASTIAN IN AUGUST, I SHALL BE
IN A BETTER POSITION TO ADVISE WHEN IT WOULD BE
USEFUL FOR ABSHIRE TO COME TO MADRID.
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Message Attributes

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